



## Trauma and stress response among Hurricane Katrina evacuees

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### Abstract:

**OBJECTIVES:** Hurricane Katrina's impact on public health has been significant and multifaceted, with trauma-related psychological sequelae likely to result in a sizable burden of disease. Data were collected that assessed acute stress disorder (ASD) prevalence and factors related to ASD symptomatology among sheltered evacuees. **METHODS:** On days 12 to 19 after Katrina, evacuees at a major emergency shelter completed surveys that assessed demographics, Katrina-specific experiences, and ASD symptomatology. **RESULTS:** Sixty-two percent of the sample met ASD threshold criterion. Projections based on the predictive power of ASD to posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) suggest that 38% to 49% of the sample will meet PTSD criteria 2 years post-disaster. Female gender (odds ratio [OR] Euro Surveillance (Bulletin European Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 4.08), positive psychiatric history (OREuro Surveillance (Bulletin European Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 5.84), injury (OREuro Surveillance (Bulletin European Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 2.75), increased life-threat perception (OREuro Surveillance (Bulletin European Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 1.37), and decreased sense of personal control (OREuro Surveillance (Bulletin European Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 1.56) were significantly related to ASD. Black race was associated with greater symptom severity (BEuro Surveillance (Bulletin European Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 7.85, SE[B]Euro Surveillance (Bulletin European Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 3.50). **CONCLUSIONS:** Katrina-related trauma and its psychological sequelae will remain a significant public health issue for years to come. The identification of several vulnerability factors related to ASD and PTSD provides a brief sketch of those at greatest risk.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1854990>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

**Extreme Weather Event:** Hurricanes/Cyclones

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

None or Unspecified

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

United States

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Mental Health/Stress

**Mental Health Effect/Stress:** Stress Disorder

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

## **Model/Methodology:**

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Outcome Change Prediction

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

**Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup:** African-American; hispanic

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content